



# BOSTON NAVAL SHIPYARD

BOSTON, MASS. 02129

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Encl: (1) Subject Report (2 copies) *[ONE RETAINED]*

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in compliance with reference (a).

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BOSTON NAVAL SHIPYARD

COMMAND HISTORY

1 JANUARY 1973 - 1 DECEMBER 1973



R. L. ARTHUR  
CAPTAIN, USN  
COMMANDER, BOSTON NAVAL SHIPYARD

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

JANUARY

The Navy's oldest aircraft carrier, USS LEXINGTON (CVT-16) arrives for overhaul....A new system of labeling containers of hazardous industrial chemicals and materials was introduced into the Shipyard and was fully operational on February 1st. These labels are in a diamond-shaped pattern and are designed to inform the Shipyard worker of the dangers involved in the handling or working around certain materials....The Shipyard Dispensary becomes part of the new Regional Medical Center....The Boston Naval Shipyard is commended by the Commander of Naval Ship Systems Command at Washington for accepting and successfully completing on time the availability to correct the thermal growth problem in the Controllable Pitch Propeller installation on USS PATTERSON (DE-1061)....With the completion of a regular overhaul of USS PERRY (DD-883) and the fitting-out of USS FORT FISHER (LSD-40), the Boston Naval Shipyard completed three full years without missing a single ship completion date.

FEBRUARY

On 17 FEB 1973, the Boston Naval Shipyard assisted in the commissioning of USS JESSE L. BROWN (DE-1089), named for the Navy's first Black aviator. The principal speaker for the occasion was the Honorable Donald L. Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Equal Opportunity).

MARCH

The Navy's historic sailing Frigate, USS CONSTITUTION (IX21), the oldest commissioned ship still afloat, began a long overhaul and preservation period at the Boston Naval Shipyard on 26 FEB 1973. The ship was open to visitors until 15 APR 1973.

The entire job will cost \$4.2 million.

Work started on 26 FEB 1973 and will be temporarily stopped on 15 MAR 1975.

It will start again in August, 1976 and finish in June, 1978.

The ship was drydocked on 17 APR 1973.

The ship will be inaccessible to visitors for 2 years. It has had approximately 600,000 visitors per year.

A temporary museum near the drydock will display artifacts removed from the ship, and visitors will be allowed to watch repairs. They will not be permitted aboard the vessel for safety reasons.

"Old Ironsides," now 176 years old, was drydocked in April, 1973 for underwater hull repairs, preservation and re-coppering. The overhaul of the 2200-ton wooden-hulled ship will utilize techniques developed by shipwrights in centuries past and carefully documented. Replacement wood for the ship's timbers, decking and planking, principally white oak, was specially cut from trees in Mid-Atlantic states that have been seasoned for two to three years. That method was used in the original construction of the ship. Shipyard wins honors in Fire Prevention Contest.

APRIL

On 17 APR 1973, the Secretary of the Navy announced the closing of the Boston Naval Shipyard as part of the shore establishment realignment program. After 173 years of service to the Fleet, the Shipyard was scheduled for closure on 30 JUN 1974. It will be placed in a caretaker status on 1 JUL 1974 under the command of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard until transfer to a successor activity.

Rear Admiral I. Kidd, Chief of Naval Material, commended the Boston Naval Shipyard for the expeditious drydocking of USS LEXINGTON (CVT-16) and replacement of all four propellers in a period of five days....Completing its annual turn-around cruise, the USS CONSTITUTION entered drydock #1 for the sixth time in her lifespan. This marked the beginning of the underwater hull repairs in a three year multi-million dollar overhaul of the historic relic.

On 31 OCT 1973, Planning and Engineering for Repairs and Alterations (PERA (ASW)) was officially disestablished. Of the 46 people on board at the time of announcement of base closure plus 9 hires during the next two quarters (55 total), by 31 OCT 1973, 12 had retired, 20 had either resigned, been on the Reduction-in-Force notice, or had transferred to a private industry. Twenty-three people actually transferred to Philadelphia with the function.

MAY

Traveling Employment Office, mobile unit of Massachusetts Division of Employment Security, sets up in the Shipyard....Job Opportunity Bulletins make their first appearance ....USS CONSTITUTION Museum Foundation established....CASDO and PERA (ASW) offices designated for transfer of functions.

JUNE

Twelve Shipyard scholars earn Associate Degrees from Mass. Bay Community College; Miss Kathleen Conaghan, Accounting Technician; Miss Maureen Devereaux, Supervisory Computer Operator; Mrs. Ruth DuPlantis, Clerk; Miss Mary B. Fitzgerald, Voucher Examiner; James O. Laney, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer; Thomas P. Marshall, Electrical (Ship Systems Test); Miss Mary F. O'Connell, Computer Systems Analyst; William F. Powers, Electronics Mechanic, General Foreman; John J. Scurka, Jr., Shipwright, Foreman; Reginald J. Vraux, Supervisory Planner and Estimator.

Safety Shoe Store closed....Final Sabbath services held....Navy night at "Pops" nets \$3,000 for USS CONSTITUTION Foundation Fund....The Dental Department executed an agreement with the Northeast Regional Metropolitan Vocation School and with ITT Technical Institute of Boston. This was done for the purpose of having Dental Assistant students come to the Boston Naval Shipyard to obtain part of their required practical training. The program began in August, 1972 and ended in June, 1973. The program was deemed highly beneficial by all concerned.

JULY

Cruiser-Destroyer Force Headquarters begins move from Newport to Norfolk....The disposal items generated by the Boston Naval Shipyard and Shipyard customers were transferred to the Defense Supply Agency. Defense Supply Agency assumed control of personnel, existing buildings and land....On 28 JUL 1973, the Boston Naval Shipyard assisted in the commissioning of USS THOMAS C. HART (DE-1092).

AUGUST

Commemorative medals and first-day covers mark Shipyard's 173rd--and last birthday. Last "shot" of Dielock Chain manufactured in Forge Shop....The first reduction in civilian employment due to closure of the Boston Naval Shipyard went into effect on 3 AUG 1973....The Boston Naval Shipyard assisted in the commissioning of USS KALAMAZOO (AOR-16) on 11 AUG 1973. The principal speaker for the occasion was the Honorable G. H. Bradley, Jr., Mayor of Kalamazoo, Michigan. USS KALAMAZOO was the last naval vessel to be commissioned at the Boston Naval Shipyard....Stock balances at the time of phase down were 44,000 line items for a value of \$71,390,000.

SEPTEMBER

Shipyard schedules "Christmas Vacation," December 22nd through January 1st...USS JULIUS A. FURER (DEG-6) completes overhaul early....On 16 SEP 1973, the Transducer Repair Facility was transferred as a function to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard....The Marine Railway and Drydock #5 were inactivated and turned over to Management Engineering Office custody. Subsistence items were transferred to Naval Supply Center, Norfolk, Virginia (Newport Branch) and the Shipyard ceased supply support operations....The Boston Naval Shipyard ceased operations as a stock point for various types of material and established limited alternate UADPS procedures with Naval Supply Center, Norfolk, Virginia.

OCTOBER

Cafeteria ends manual operation, goes to all vending machines....Fire station in South Boston Annex closed.

NOVEMBER

Shipyard Tugboat makes last tow....All day shift employees now working 0730 to 1600....Drydock #3 in South Boston was inactivated and turned over to Management Engineering Office custody.

DECEMBER

"Old Ironsides" now stands alone on the waterfront and becomes the Boston Naval Shipyard's last customer....On 14 DEC 1973, the USS TALBOT (DEG-4) departed Boston upon completion of a regular overhaul. The USS TALBOT was the last active warship worked on by the Boston Naval Shipyard....Drydock #4 in South Boston was inactivated and turned over to Management Engineering Office custody....The Forge Shop accomplished its last major job with the completion of the 4-1/2 inch die-lock chain for the new carrier USS EISENHOWER (CVAN-69) under construction at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company....With the closure announcement, plans and schedules were established for personnel reduction that would relate to the decrease in industrial work and an increase in closure effort. An inventory of 12,000 Class III and IV plant property items as well as 80,000 minor property items were completed. Plans and schedules for the orderly relocation of this equipment and its shipping were established along with the disposal or preservation of remaining material and the cleaning of buildings and areas....Production Department manpower was initially allocated to completion of waterfront workload. A transition period was defined whereby closure planning and execution was continued only to the extent that resources became available from the waterfront. With the departure of USS TALBOT, the entire Production Department effort was devoted to closure....By the end of December, 62% of the Production space had been released and 57% actually turned over to Management Engineering Office. Of the plant account equipment and minor property, 85% had been released, 40% identified for shipment, and 27% actually shipped. Preservation of remaining equipment was 5% complete. Plans, schedules and progress at the end of December all indicated that closure action within the Production Department would be essentially complete by 1 JUL 1974.

The Combat Systems Office was disestablished on 31 DEC 1973. A systems engineering capability was established in the Planning Department under the Chief Design Engineer for Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

All industrial operations ceased on 31 DEC 1973 except for the overhaul of the USS CONSTITUTION.

STATISTICAL LIST - BASE CLOSURE

ISSUE DATE 12/22/73

1871 Active

46 Resignations (to Private Employment)

53 Resignations (to other than Private or Federal Employment)

329 Transfer to Federal Agency (other than Navy)

526 Reduction-in-Force

10 Removal (inefficiency - disqualification)

23 Termination (of appointment)

14 Deaths

1420 Retirement (mandatory or voluntary)

102 Retirement (disability)

716 Transfer to another Navy activity

6 Separation - Military

330 Involuntary separation

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5446 TOTAL